

Lady Carlotta in New York City

illustrated by
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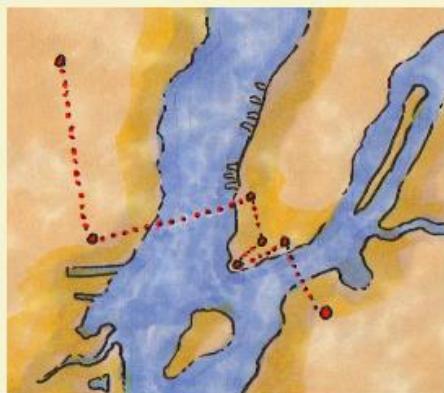
July 1888 NEW YORK, N.Y. - In order to excite interest in his airship company, Mr. Campbell arranged for Carlotta to make an ascension. He said, "Now if you only had my navigable airship, you could sail around Brooklyn, and the aviation industry would boom."

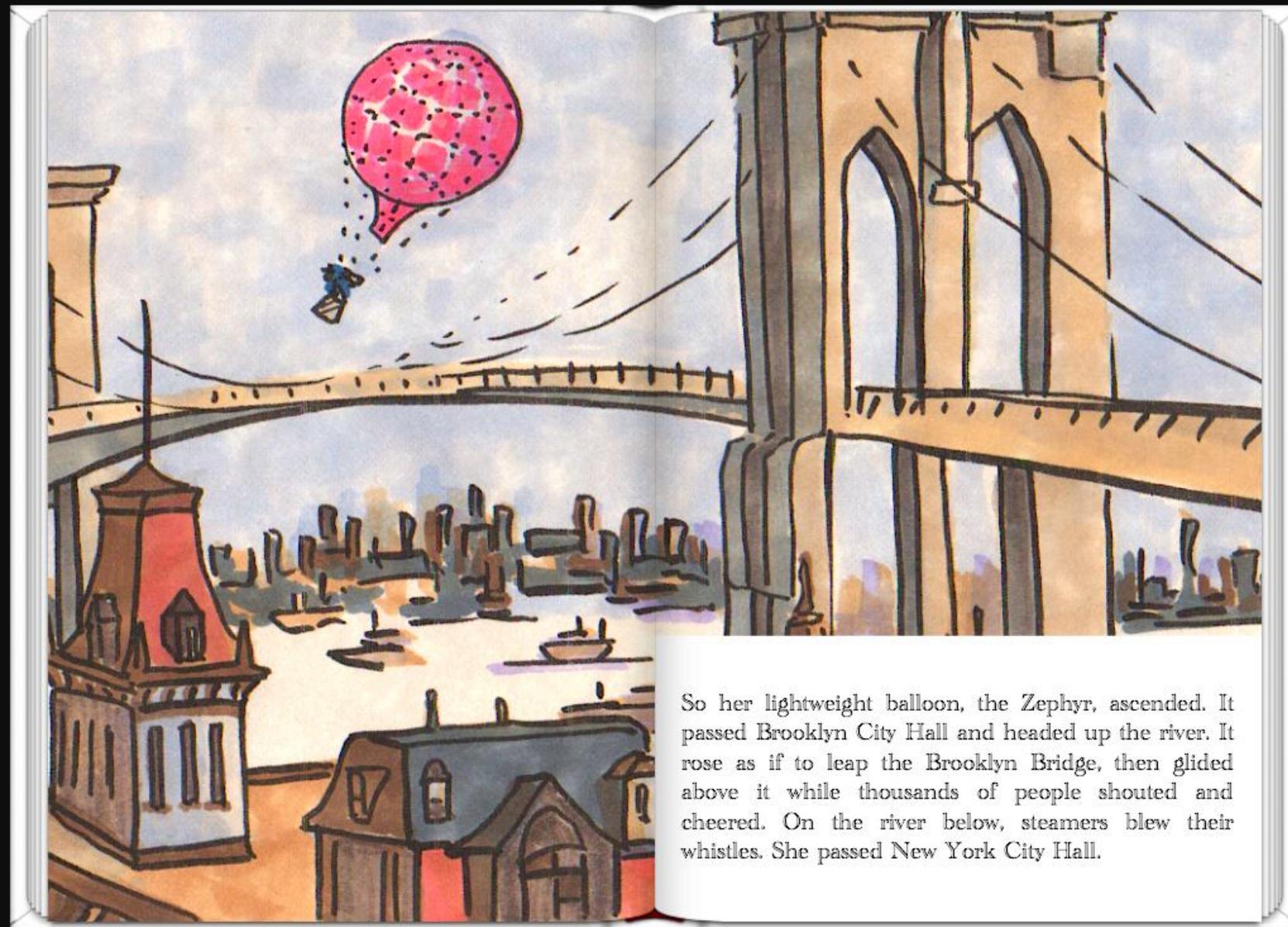
"Oh, is that what you would like me to do?" said Carlotta. "Would you map out a course for me to follow?"

He described a circuit that would take her past the city halls of Brooklyn, New York City, and New Jersey.

"If you will fly that route," he said, "you will be seen by more people than ever before saw an airship, and I will present you with the handsomest gold badge ever given to an aeronaut."

"It's a bargain!" said Carlotta. "Watch me!"



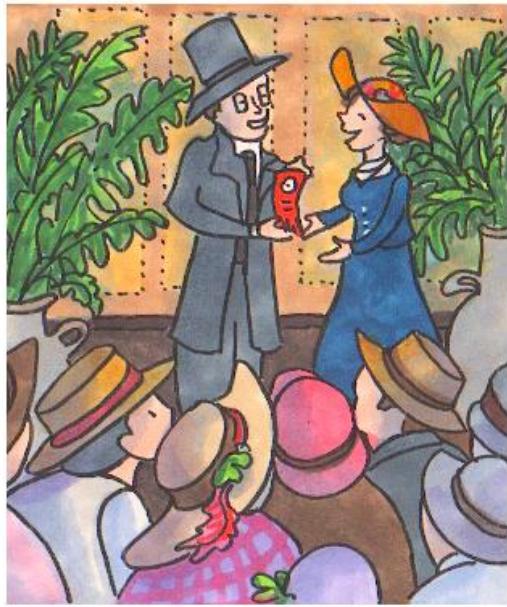


So her lightweight balloon, the Zephyr, ascended. It passed Brooklyn City Hall and headed up the river. It rose as if to leap the Brooklyn Bridge, then glided above it while thousands of people shouted and cheered. On the river below, steamers blew their whistles. She passed New York City Hall.

Carlotta guided the balloon along the ferry route, across the Hudson River to the city hall in Jersey City.

An hour after she started, she touched down in a green space in Secaucus, New Jersey.





Mr. Campbell, who was a jeweler as well as an airship manufacturer, made a beautiful badge and presented it to Carlotta as a prize for her superlative ballooning skills.

SOURCES

"By Balloon to New-Jersey: Mme Carl Myers Makes a Graceful Ascension,"
New York Times, July 19, 1888.

Bassett Preston R. "Carlotta, The Lady Aeronaut of the Mohawk Valley," New York History, April 1963.

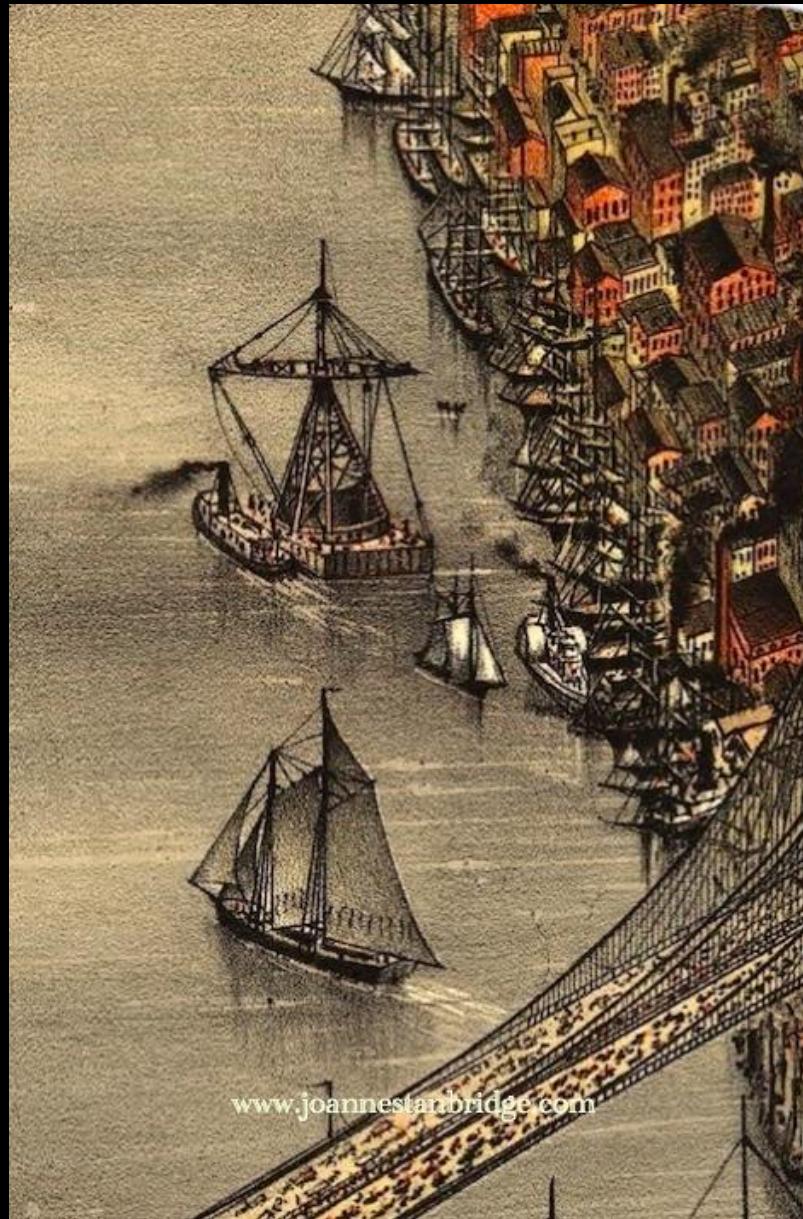
"Voyaging in the Sky: Ballooning with Proper Care is Not Dangerous,"
Kentucky New Era, May 2, 1894.

This project was
part of a longer piece
submitted to
The Sketchbook Project 2011
on the theme
"In Flight."
The original is in
The Brooklyn Art Library
in New York City
and can be viewed in its entirety
on their website
www.sketchbookproject.com/brooklynartlibrary

October 2010

The illustrations were done
in ink and Prismacolour markers
on 140-lb Arches paper.

Cover: [detail] Panoramic View of City of Brooklyn, New York, by
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